

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Alderbury and Whaddon held on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at Alderbury Village Hall at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Hartford, Mernagh, Diprose, Sell, Reeder, Jennings, Considine and Clarke.

In attendance: Mrs Alison McGowan (clerk), Cllr Richard Britton, Alasdair Jones-Perrott and 34 residents.

Apologies: Cllr Hughes, Cllr Richardson, Tennis Club, Gardening Club, Bowling Club.

The meeting opened at 7.05pm. Councillor (Cllr) Hartford as Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the meeting. It is nice to see so many people.

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Hartford asked each of the Parish Councillors to introduce themselves to the audience one by one.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Hughes and Cllr Richardson, the Alderbury Bowling Club Committee, Alderbury Tennis Club and Alderbury Gardening Club.

3. Reports from:-

• Alderbury Parish Council – Councillor Hartford

It is my pleasure as Chair of Alderbury Parish Council to welcome you to our Annual Parish Meeting. It is good to see so many of you here. It has been a very busy year and we have achieved much during this time. Currently we have one vacancy on the PC owing to the resignation of Megan Taylor who has now sold her business and moved from the village. We were glad to welcome Cllr Jennings who joined us at our March meeting filling the previous vacancy.

During the autumn we ran a CPR and Defibrillator training session in the Social Club. This was organised by Cllr Adam Hughes, ably assisted by Paul Diprose, both medical doctors, and a medical student from the hospital. They brought with them dummies to practice CPR on. As a result of the success of this, the team were asked to repeat the session at West Grimstead, which they did at the beginning of 2016.

Last summer a programme of activities for young people was run at the Alderbury Recreation Field by GoActive, organised by the Parish Council and Emma Drage, the local area youth officer, and funded by the Southern Area Board. 'Fun in the Sun' sessions were run in Alderbury again during the summer and had the largest attendance so far after three years of running them. The sessions will be run again this summer and details have been published in the Fountain.

A Dementia Friends session was run at Alderbury Village Hall in January in association with Wiltshire Council and the Alzheimer's Society, for residents to understand more about how best to support those with dementia. As a result 27 more people in the village are "dementia friends".

As a village we took part in the "Clean for the Queen" in March. Several villagers turned out to help and over 35 bags of rubbish were collected. The local Venture Scouts took part and they cleaned all the village road signs. It is hoped that this can become a more frequent event.

Over the past year general maintenance has taken place, much of it going un-noticed. Cllr Reeder has spent many hours using his expertise in staining, painting or varnishing as necessary all the seats in the village. He has repaired the one in Waleran Close where he had to make a new Back to the same pattern. Basil, our local blacksmith, has repaired the metal surround to the village map which was showing rust holes. He actually made a new cover to fit over the existing frame which has given it a new lease of life. The paving stones around the map have been re-pointed, again done by a local builder.

I hope you will have all noticed that the War Memorial has been cleaned! The lettering has still to be repainted but this will be done in due course. We were very grateful to the Alderbury Players who gave a donation towards this work from the proceeds of their production "The Accrington Pals".

The Alderbury Footpath group have been very active again. Two new kissing gates have been installed off Folly Lane and work is currently underway to complete the two final parts of the circular footpath. It

would be great to have an official opening when complete as the work undertaken has made a number of improvements to routes around the village.

The Pratten Hut at the Junction Road football field has been renovated and can once again be used by AFC until such time as they have their new Clubhouse built.

Having received several complaints about vehicles parking on the grassed area in Eyres Drive, with the help of a grant from CATG we have had wooden bollards installed which have solved the situation and enhanced the look of the area.

The largest project during the financial year has been the resurfacing of the play area with new wet pour surfacing and replacing 3 pieces of the play equipment. On the large multiplay equipment the bridge and rope sides have been renewed. All that remains to be done now is to repaint the equipment and we have had an offer to do this from a local Masonic group.

We have entered the best kept village again this year, having been pipped by Whiteparish again last year. With this in mind, and judging is from mid May to mid June, I am asking if residents can ensure that their frontages are kept cut and litter free. I personally regularly litter pick the recreation field, and can often be seen litter picking the main road from the start of the village by car! Any extra help would be more than welcome.

This brings me very nicely to our latest improvement to the village. You will all be aware that Wiltshire Council have had to make a great deal of cutbacks in their services to village maintenance. With this in mind APC tendered and selected a contractor to widen where possible and weed all the pavements and gulleys right through the village. They have removed in excess of 32 tons of weeds and soil and it is now possible to walk safely along our pavements. There will be a need to spray the weeds which are already reappearing and Wiltshire Council has agreed to spray twice a year but there is no knowing when this will be. We may have to tender for the first spraying before it gets too bad.

To the future, Longford Estate has offered to supply us with a large Christmas tree each year which will be erected on the green at Waleran Close. Preparations are in place to install an electricity supply and the necessary equipment to support the tree.

At the Skate Park the metal ramps are near the end of their life span and the PC has been reviewing budgets and designs to replace them in the coming months. We have been in consultation with the users of the Skate Park, both young and older, and have now agreed a design to suit all. It is hoped that work on this will begin shortly.

Finally I would remind you that APC meet monthly at St Mary's Hall and we would love to see any of you there. Agendas for the meetings are displayed on the notice boards and the website. Likewise the minutes of previous meetings are displayed on the website and posted in the locked notice board by the village hall bus stop. I regularly attend the Friday coffee shop from 1030 onwards and am happy to hear any concerns that residents may have.

May I thank on your behalf the Parish Councillors for all their dedication and efforts to make Alderbury a great place to live, and my personal thanks to Darren, our vice Chairman, and Alison our clerk, without whose support I would find it very difficult to fulfil my role as Chairman. Last but not least, thank you all for coming and enjoy the rest of the evening.

• **Wiltshire Councillor – Richard Britton**

Good evening and thank you Chair. Last year I started by talking about Wiltshire Council and then more local issues and I will follow the same model this year. Wiltshire Council is facing continued cuts in funding. During 2016-2017 the Council must find a further £26 million of savings. It currently operates around 350 services, however many of these are not statutory and are therefore likely to be axed. The Government's strategy by 2020 will be to stop any central funding and therefore local funding will have to come from business rates and raising the precept. This has huge implications for Parish Council's. Parish Council's will be required to do more and more. Communities will have to 'do it themselves' and this will be an increasing theme for the future.

To outline my roles – I have continued as the Chairman of the Southern Area Board since it started in 2009, I am the Vice Chairman of the Audit Commission, a member of the Southern Planning Committee, Chairman of CATG (Community Transport Group), Chairman of the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel and I am proud to say that I have been re-elected Chairman of Wiltshire Council (it is not normal to do two terms as Chairman). I am like the Speaker of the House of Commons with Cllr Jane Scott like the prime minister – a formidable lady! I am also still the local Councillor, dealing with issues such as planning and flooding. If I am asked for advice, I do the best that I can. Recently there have been a lot of housing matters to deal with regarding Spiders Island and a family eviction.

There have also been a number of fly-tipping issues and I am grateful to Longford Estate for their response, thank you Alasdair.

The Southern Area Board adopts various themes each year. Last year it was Youth and Dementia Friends with various activities running for each of these. A pilot training scheme started in Alderbury and has also run in Downton and Winterslow. Footpaths were also a theme. More recently the theme of conservation has been adopted. A group is currently trying to understand more about what that looks like within the Southern Area Board. Wiltshire Council is devolving more powers and budgets to the Southern Area Board. It now has a new pot of money, albeit modest, to develop a vulnerable people theme.

I will be standing for re-election next year.

Congratulations to the Parish Council for its work, the Skate Park being a prime example. It takes a lot of time and effort and the Parish is fortunate to have an excellent clerk, who is diligent.

A paper will be put to the Parish Council soon regarding a potential rebuild of the village hall to make it 'fit for purpose' for the future. It will be a complicated project.

Question: Is the increase in fly-tipping locally linked to the reduction in hours of the refuse tip in Salisbury?

Answer: I am confident that it is not linked to the hours of the refuse tip, but is caused where tradesmen are trying to avoid paying for the necessary licences.

Question: It must be costing a lot of money to collect the fly-tipping?

Answer: I am not sure of the amount at present, but it will be tracked. From the Winterslow, Downton and Landford area there seems to be a more pronounced problem than other areas in Wiltshire.

Question: A new village hall? At the Annual General Meeting of the village hall last night, only 2 residents attended.

Answer: The hall is very busy, however the Social Club is not very busy. It will take a lot of discussion and a lot of time to investigate. There is currently no meeting room and not a suitable space for a youth club. A group has been working on the project, which included Cllrs Sell and Clarke. They considered an extension but the time has come to try and replace it. Before long, work will be required to the roof, which is likely to cost a large amount of money.

- **Local Police Team – via email read by Councillor Hartford**

Apologies for the lack of police attendance at your PCM, unfortunately due to other commitments and abstractions we have been unable to provide an officer to attend. You will all have received your monthly crime bulletins from Henry which summarise events in the area, in addition you will be aware that with the re-election of Angus McPherson as PCC it is likely that the move from Neighbour Policing Teams (NPT) to Community Policing Teams (CPT) will continue, with October being the month that this is planned to happen.

In a nutshell this model will see existing CBMs and PCSOs drawn into a new CPT which will have 5 shifts with an officer on each shift who will be allocated a geographical area. PCSO's will remain with the same geographical areas of responsibility but it is likely that the CPT for your area will be based in Bourne Hill with officers from it using new technology to work remotely on the areas they have been allocated as often as possible. In addition every area will be represented by a community manager who will look at events, longer term issues and resourcing and liaise with other partner agencies to resolve issues, but are likely to have less involvement in 'day to day' policing.

The implementation of this model is happening after a year-long trial in the Trowbridge and Warminster area. The trial received feedback from a number of different sources including the officers working on the new CPT's. At the moment it is likely that Inspector Dave Minty will remain in post for the Salisbury and South Wiltshire area to ensure continuity as we change over. The exact details of the staffing on the new teams hasn't yet been announced but we will keep you up to date with any further information as we get it.

4. Reports from village groups:-

- **Alderbury & West Grimstead Primary School – Paul Beveridge**

There are currently 173 children on roll, with 124 families. There are classes from reception to year 6 (7 single age classes) catering for ages 4 – 11. In September the number of children is predicted to increase to 185 and the school has experienced a growth in numbers since I took over last January. We are a mixture of a town and country school! We have a wide range of backgrounds represented and a range of children's needs to meet. We belong to the Wiltshire Local Authority, the Salisbury Diocese and the village! We have no plans to convert to an academy as yet.

We are currently focusing on developing children's 'hands on experience' of maths and problem solving in the core curriculum.

We are, perhaps surprisingly, investing more time and resource into having animals on site (chickens, fish) as well as a gardening club developing an allotment, an eco club looking at recycling and a plastic bottle greenhouse and the promotion of team work, self esteem and confidence through 'Forest Schools' in the Longford woodland.

Our three core Christian values are: Friendship, Thankfulness and Service (FTS = For This School), often branded as Welcoming In, Giving Thanks, Helping Out.

We have recently upgraded our broadband speed, WIFI connections and bought tablet technology into school. This is indicative of both traditional and modern schooling coming together.

We have links to Alderbury Football Club, St. Mary's Church and the Boundary Coffee Shop. We wish to make time to work more with Dementia projects via Tom Bray. We work closely with our cluster of primary schools; Coombe Bissett, Whiteparish, Downton, New Forest, Morgan's Vale and Longford. We see the school being central to the village community, with the outdoor environment and animals being part of the facilities. We seek creative solutions to the parking issue. Any housing/highways development near School/Firs Road would include discussion around free-flow parking bays being installed.

We continue to seek ways to develop the arts; including cooking, crafts, music, design, drama and sporting opportunities. We are committed to Achievement for All (AfA;3As) – a national programme for vulnerable learners. We would love to expand the building to have a suite of smaller rooms, which could also be used by the Community. This would include a 'sensory room' that younger children could use from pre-school. Another vision is to develop a 'Community kitchen' space to bridge the generation divide, promote maths and cooking skills and provide means for the elderly. Do explore our website for regularly updated information, newsletters, enrichments and projects – www.alderbury.wilts.sch.uk.

Question: Could the year 5 and 6's go to the Boundary coffee shop on a Friday or perhaps older people go to the school for afternoon tea?

Answer: Yes, potentially. We are currently exploring different options.

- **Team Vicar - Revd. Beth Hutton**

I would like to introduce myself as the new vicar for the village. I have joined the wider Clarendon team which also includes West Dean and East and West Grimstead. I have only been here for a month so far and I am very much trying to get to know as many people as possible. If you see me around, please say hello. There is a display up at the back and a leaflet with my personal details on. I am the vicar for the whole community and not just those who go to church. I have a good link with the school and the Boundary Coffee shop and have yet to visit the Toddler Group and other weekly children's groups. The website and the Fountain will give you information on the forthcoming events. Do join us. The village Fete is on Saturday 3rd September.

- **Neighbourhood Watch – David Whetton**

I am the local co-ordinator for Alderbury and Whaddon and we currently have 160 members. Contact is now via email. In the 70's and 80's members used to meet at each other's houses, however nowadays it is all electronic. I have recently however been scammed myself and was a missing person needing money so that I could be safe! The Crime Bulletin from PC Clissold is circulated. There was a recent incidence regarding horses near Folly Lane. I emailed out to members to let dog walkers know that they should be careful across the field as the police were unsure what had happened. Alderbury is generally a very safe place to live in, but please lock your garden shed! Details of how to register with the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme will be in the next edition of the Fountain.

Question: Cllr Hartford asked about older residents who might not be 'online'.

Answer: It could be explored whether members could team up to ensure that members without online access can continue to get the information.

- **Alderbury Scout Group – Adrian Taylor**

I run an Explorer Scouts group for 14 – 17 year olds. The group was set up in January 2015 and has therefore been running for one and a half years. It has 12 members and 4 leaders. Some of the activities they have been involved in include – Archery, making Christmas Cookies, out in the woodland cooking and making fires, 'Ready Steady Cook' to make a meal with ingredients – some were better than others at this! An Arts night has been held. Go Active came in over three evenings and ran a number of activities, members played tennis last summer at the tennis club and members also helped at the Downton Firework display – attracted by 'free' food! Thanks go to the Boundary Coffee Shop, which paid for members to go to the dry ski slope in Southampton. By the end of the evening they were 'throwing' themselves down the slopes! The Explorer Scouts got involved in the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative and repainted posts on Old Road and cleaned road signs. They have done knife and axe skills, film making – a zombie horror movie, celebrated Burns Night, had a Christmas Party and conducted a 'chip' survey with one portion of chips between 12! If there is anyone else within the village who would like to join, they would be very welcome!

- **History Society – Brian Johnson**

I can use the term 'hot off the press literally' today. We have just published our 10th issue – 'Johns jottings' about Wheelwrights and Carpenters in Alderbury. It shares the memories of life in Alderbury. It is available for £3.00 at the stall this evening or from Alderbury Village Hall or the Green Dragon.

- **Royal British Legion – Alan Shaw & Pat Sheppard (Poppy Appeal Organiser)**

The British Legion was founded in 1921 and became 'Royal' in 1971. It provides help and assistance to servicemen, ex. Servicemen and their families. This could be with finances or helping them to find work. It also involves care homes, resettlement and financial residential breaks. Everyone can join. I help to run the Alderbury Branch which covers Alderbury, Whaddon, Grimstead, Pitton and Farley. There are 220,000 members across the country, however membership of the branch has fallen slightly from 50 to 41 since I joined. Last year we had a very successful military wives' evening. This year we have a retired brigadier, Allan Mallinson coming to talk to us about World War 1 – the Battle of the Somme and if anyone is interested I have some tickets with me! I will now handover to my colleague who is the Poppy Appeal organiser.

The collection total as at the 3rd April in this area for the Poppy Appeal last year was £4,843.65 which was given to the Royal British Legion. The national figure is £42 million, with £5 million raised in the south and £650,000 raised in Wiltshire. It doesn't happen by magic and to do this we need the support of volunteers to do 'door to door' collections, to houses, pubs and schools. We need to have 39 people to help out during the Remembrance period and we are already two people short as they have moved. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to get involved. Each year I apply for recognition for poppy collectors – some have done it for 35 years and there are new comers who have done it for 5. We always need more help!

- **Alderbury Football Club – Paul Sims & Pete Cross**

I am the coach for the under 12's at the club and will cover three areas – club successes, an update on the ground and our plans for the future. The men's team have had success this year. They won the league and have had a 'cup double' for the second year. Peter is the coach for the under 9 age group and therefore we both work with the children's section. There are 14 teams at youth level ranging from the under 7's to the under 16's. To give you an idea of the size, Amesbury has five times the population of Alderbury and operate 10 teams. There are currently 250 children signed on and we are proud of the work we have done with them.

Martin, our club Chairman is best placed to talk about the update on the ground, however he is currently away. A meeting has taken place today with the Football Foundation for a significant grant. We should know more in the next couple of days.

It will take a year to turn a field into a number of pitches at the end of Firs Road. The club currently has between 30 – 40 volunteers but is always looking for more! We currently require a child welfare officer and if you are interested, please let me know.

Next season we would like to have more girls playing and would like 2 or 3 girls' teams. We will be having a stall at the school fete this year to recruit new members.

Question: How do you fit 250 children into the Pratten Hut! Congratulations on your success as a club. Why not drop the children at the top of the road and let them run down?! It would help to reduce the traffic. When it gets full with cars, people then block the footpath and the access to the Guide Hut as cars seem to park outside the gate rather than enter the car park.

Answer: Yes, I agree it needs to be better managed.

Question: Out of the 250 children, how many of them are from the village?

Answer: Most of the children are from outside the village. In the under 9's team about half of the children are from Alderbury and in the under 12's there is only 1.

- **Alderbury Village Hall – Maz Clarke.**

Good evening, somehow I have managed to volunteer to give a brief report on behalf of the Village Hall committee, and I apologise now for the speed at which I will probably deliver this but I am not used to public speaking.

As you may or may not know the Village Hall is a charity & the committee are all volunteer trustees who dedicate themselves to making sure the hall is kept up to standard & crucially remains solvent. In the last year the hall has been pretty much in constant use & barely a day goes by without some sort of activity or function being held there.

The hall made a small surplus last year of which approx 20% came from the film nights which have been very well attended. This surplus is required to fund ongoing maintenance & the committee are very mindful that should any major repairs be required it would not take long for funds to be depleted. The boilers in particular in both the club & hall have needed a lot of maintenance to keep them going over the winter period & the decision has now been made to replace both over the summer as they are beyond economical repair. We will be applying to Viridor, a recycling & resource centre near Romsey for a grant to assist in the purchase of 2 new boilers as this will cost a considerable amount of money. We are also aware that the chairs here are a bit past their sell by date & we have applied to the Southern Area Board for a grant to help buy replacements.

We have taken on a local lad who pops in to make sure that the hall is in a reasonable condition for the next hirer. We are paying him a very modest amount of money for his time and as such hire charges will increase for non-regular users by £5 from the 1st of June. Details of these new rates will be published in the Fountain & also on the notice boards.

We hope that the community will continue to support such a valued asset.

- **Tennis Club – Simon Jennison**

The Clerk confirmed that unfortunately the Chairman of the Tennis Club was unable to attend as he is away with work and it is the evening for the Tennis Club to meet, but had sent a note to say:-

Essentially the club is doing well with about 140 members

Good mix of social tennis, team tennis in the Sarum league, junior coaching and some adult refresher coaching this year.

We are always looking for new members, the more people exercising and having fun on the courts the better!

- **Alderbury Players – Andy Larkham.**

Alderbury Players has celebrated its 25 year anniversary. They weren't able to put on a spring production this year, but will put on Mother Goose in December. The group has between 35-40 members, mostly young people (ranging from 11 or 12 years old to 17 or 18 years old and taking lead roles in plays) with a few older members. Feel free to come and join us, either to help as a front of house, with refreshments or to even 'tread the boards'. Auditions for the play will take place on the first Sunday of July at 6pm.

Cllr Hartford thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Do have a look at the displays before you leave.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

During the evening displays were on show from:-

- Gardening Club
- Football Club
- History Society
- Royal British Legion
- St. Marys Church & the Boundary Coffee Shop